# Blair Academy

Languages

## News

## Blair Neighbor Establishes the Cynthia I. Lackovic Scholarship

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For the past several years, Dennis Lackovic has been an almost-daily visitor to Blair Academy. This isn't because he is an alumnus or Blair parent; rather, it is because the longtime Blairstown resident enjoys walking through the School's beautiful, always-active campus. In early 2015, Mr. Lackovic's beloved wife, Cynthia, lost her battle with multiple sclerosis, and he wished to honor her memory and lifelong passion for education; he did so by making a generous gift to Blair to establish the Cynthia I. Lackovic Scholarship, providing necessary funds for deserving young women to receive a Blair education.

"Cindy was kind, outgoing, generous and a true friend," Mr. Lackovic said admiringly of his wife. She had dedicated herself to the care of others throughout a career in nursing, working in coronary care for the Veteran's Administration and as a nurse supervisor and medical department manager for the corporation that would become Honeywell. She earned her RN at Wagner College in New York City and, believing deeply in the power of education, pursued additional schooling over the years, earning a master's degree in nursing at New York University, certification as an adult nurse practitioner for coronary care and completing coursework to become a nurse educator in the New Jersey public school system.

Mr. Lackovic, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology and personnel psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University, shares his wife's love of education. He enjoyed a long career in human resources management and was an adjunct professor in his alma mater's psychology department for more than 20 years. "Cindy and I always tried to learn something new," he said. It comes as no surprise, then, that the couple felt at home at Blair.

Mr. Lackovic began his daily walks through campus about five years ago, when he was recovering from surgery. He called the School first to make sure it was okay, and from then on, he enjoyed strolls through Blair's "safe, pleasant environment with lots of friendly people." Occasionally, when her health permitted it, Mrs. Lackovic accompanied him. "We were impressed by the students and the way they interacted with one another," he said. "They had an air of dedication that shone through. It seemed as though Blair was teaching them to be very responsible citizens."

Mr. Lackovic recalled one day in particular that sealed his high estimation of Blair and its students: "I rounded the corner and saw several empty buses parked in the road. Thinking they might be waiting to take students to a sporting event, I was surprised to see boys and girls in formal wear starting to board them. They looked like wonderful young ladies and gentlemen, and I thought 'that's the way things should be conducted.' I would've enjoyed an experience like that myself."

By establishing the Cynthia I. Lackovic Scholarship at Blair, Mr. Lackovic hopes to keep the memory of his kind and wonderful wife alive and share her devotion to education with a new generation of students. He would like the scholarship to be awarded to young women considering a career in medicine who would not otherwise be able to afford a Blair education. "Blair provides a very special opportunity for its students," he said. "Cindy went to school during a time when women often pursued careers as nurses or secretaries as a matter of course—she would have been successful in any career path she chose. I would like each recipient of this scholarship to fully become the person she wants to be by taking advantage of the quality education Blair offers."

Head of School Chris Fortunato expressed deep gratitude for Mr. Lackovic's gift to the School, noting that scholarship aid has helped many deserving young people come to Blair over the years and receive an education that has made all the difference in their lives. "The Cynthia I. Lackovic Scholarship will carry on the legacy of a caring and dedicated woman, and provide tremendous opportunity for Blair students. We are honored that Mr. Lackovic chose to remember his cherished wife in this profoundly meaningful way."

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Previous Page

« prev next »

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